

Alabama Student Loan Program and
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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

VOLUME VIII, NO. 2, JANUARY 2005

AlabamaMentor makes college planning easier



AlabamaMentor.org is a website designed to help students prepare for college, apply for admission and find financial aid for college.

The website, endorsed by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, provides information for more than 60 Alabama colleges. Students can find out what they need to be doing each year of high school to get admitted to college, compare the characteristics of schools and apply online. Through the website students are also able to learn the details about financial assistance programs and search for scholarships to help pay for college.

AlabamaMentor.org even makes your job easier. The Counselor Center lets counselors track students' pre-college planning and send out automatic notes to students informing them of important dates. Also, AlabamaMentor.org lets you condense student and college schedules with your own to help you stay organized and know when things need to be accomplished.

A free AlabamaMentor.org poster is included with this edition of the *Counselor Connection*. Please post this poster where it will be visible to students.



ALCA conference promotes AlabamaMentor website

The 38th annual Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) conference was held November 17–19 in Huntsville. The conference offered counselors many chances to learn more about the Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA and the AlabamaMentor website. KHEAA was a vendor for the three-day conference and the sponsor of the Past President's reception. There were also two sessions held to teach counselors how to navigate the AlabamaMentor website and how to effectively use the site as an education resource.



Dr. Wall shows off the new AlabamaMentor.org poster.



Jeff Golden visits with a University of Alabama in Huntsville representative.



Meet the new ASLP team

Dr. William H. Wall is the **director** of the Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA. Dr. Wall has 35 years' experience as a professional student financial aid administrator, including service at the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the University of Alabama and the University of Florida. Because he has an earned doctorate in counseling and guidance, he understands and appreciates the important role that counselors have in assisting college-bound students and families. He is a member of the state, regional and national student financial aid associations and the Alabama Counseling Association. Dr. Wall is committed to promoting two useful tools sponsored by KHEAA — the *Getting In* publication for high school seniors and the AlabamaMentor.org website that provides links to all the colleges and universities in Alabama.



Jeff Golden is a **student loan specialist** for the Alabama Student Loan Program. Golden has been employed by KHEAA for eight years. During his time here he has worked with default aversion, reviewed programs and assisted with KHEAA marketing efforts. Before coming to KHEAA Golden served 26 years as the Director of Financial Aid for his alma mater, Troy State University. He is a member of the Alabama Counseling Association, Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA) and the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA). As a student loan specialist, Golden is working with outreach visiting high schools across the state. He is currently visiting schools south of Birmingham and will be making his way north to the Tennessee line.



Jody Lewis recently joined the staff of the Alabama Student Loan Program as **business development representative**. Lewis previously worked for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education administering the Technology Scholarship Program. As business development representative, Lewis markets programs and services offered by The Student Loan People and Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA in the Southeast.

Filling out the FAFSA

Encourage your students to complete the FAFSA as soon after the first of the year as possible. Students seeking college aid for the 2005–2006 school year should file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible.

The FAFSA is used to apply for most need-based state, federal and institutional aid programs. Some student aid funds are limited, and those who apply early have the best chance to receive all of the aid for which they may qualify.

Students who file the FAFSA online will get their results 7 to 14 days faster than those who file by mail. Students can also file a paper FAFSA, available from high school guidance offices and college financial aid offices.

The Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA is committed to providing quality service. Please send any comments or suggestions for the *Counselor Connection* to publications@kheaa.com.



The Student Loan PeopleSM

You can go to college. We'll get you there for less.